*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (2001)

Director

Chris Columbus—Also known for *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993), *Home Alone* (1990), & *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002)

Writers

J.K. Rowling (novel) & Steve Kloves (screenplay)

Music

John Williams—5 Oscar wins; also known for *Jaws* (1975), & *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park*, & *Indiana Jones* series

Cast

Daniel Radcliffe … Harry Potter

Rupert Grint … Ron Weasley

Emma Watson … Hermione Granger

Richard Harris … Albus Dumbledore—known for *Camelot* (1967) & *Gladiator* (2000)

Maggie Smith … Prof. McGonagall—known for *A Room with a View* (1985) & *Gosford Park* (2001)

Box Office

Budget: $125,000,000 (estimated)

Worldwide Gross: $974,755,371

Ratings

Imdb score: 7.6

Rotten Tomatoes: 80%

Awards

Nominated for 3 Oscars (Best Art Direction, Best Costume Design, & Best Music, Score)

Nominated for 6 BAFTA Awards (British Academy of Film and Television Arts)

Nominated for 8 Saturn Awards (Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy, & Horror Films)

Winner—Saturn Award for Best Costumes

17 wins and 65 nominations overall

Questions for Consideration

1. How does John Williams’ music impact the narrative?
2. How do the award-winning costumes shape your vision of the characters and Hogwarts?
3. How does the lighting of the film reflect character and the battle between good and evil?
4. In which spaces do the child characters have the most power? Describe them.

What questions can you think of? Remember that we want to look past simply discussing how the book and film are different (especially how the film is “worse” than the book). I would remind you that every person who reads a text (a movie, book, article, etc.) reads it in a different way—focusing on certain elements or characters while ignoring others. Each person is entitled to their unique interpretation of that text; in fact, I believe we are powerless to all read a text in the same way. This entitlement certainly extends to screenplay writers, directors, and actors. Each text, even if it adapted from a different text, should reflect the creator’s artistic vision. It is now a new creation to be interpreted.